

esprit orchestra

Alex Pauk music director and conductor

explore the new century

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www.espritorchestra.com

sanctuary

1

Sunday, October 22.06

Alex Pauk • conductor

Paul Frehner (Canada)

Brian Current (Canada)

George Benjamin (UK)

György Ligeti (Hungary)

Sanctuary

Kazabazua

Three Inventions

for chamber orchestra

Melodien

2

sophia plus

Sunday, November 26.06

Alex Pauk • conductor

Friedrich Lips • bayan

Paul Widner • cello

Robert Aitken • flute

Louise Bessette • piano

Sophia Gubaidulina (Russia) *Seven Words* for bayan, cello and string orchestra

Brian Current (Canada) *Concertino* for solo flute, three flutes and string orchestra

Sophia Gubaidulina (Russia) *De Profundis* bayan solo

Serge Arcuri (Canada) *Concerto for Piano and String Orchestra*

3

la joie

Sunday, February 11.07

Alex Pauk • conductor

Patricia Green • soprano

George Benjamin (UK)

Petar-Kresimir Klanac (Canada)

Philip Cashian (UK)

Joseph Schwantner (US)

Upon Silence for soprano and strings

La joie éclatante des jeunes époux

Chamber Concerto

Aftertones of Infinity

4

red hot new wave finale

Sunday, May 13.07

Alex Pauk • conductor

Joanne Kong • harpsichord and piano

Shauna Rolston • cello

Michael Colgrass (Canada)

Petar-Kresimir Klanac (Canada)

Douglas Schmidt (Canada)

György Ligeti (Hungary)

*New Work** concerto for harpsichord and piano with orchestra

*Canons**

Omies Rückenschmerzen (Grandma's Sore Back)

for cello, piano, percussion and string orchestra

Concerto for Cello and Orchestra

*esprit commission – world premiere

note:

location & time for all esprit orchestra concerts: 8 pm concert / 7:15 pm pre-concert talk Jane Mallett Theatre, St Lawrence Centre for the Arts, 27 Front St. E., Toronto, ON

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music director's message

This season it's my pleasure to offer Esprit audiences the finest of today's music through new programming concepts and initiatives as well as through performances by the very best soloists and orchestral players to be found anywhere.

In several cases, Esprit will perform two works by the same composer in order to reveal a broader range of the composer's output. Our opening and closing concerts this season include music by Ligeti as a tribute to this recently deceased, very great composer – perhaps the greatest of our time. Both works of Brian Current programmed on our concerts will later be recorded and appear, with other Esprit recordings, on a CD of Brian's orchestral music expected to be released during Esprit's **New Wave Festival**. The music of English composer George Benjamin, receiving great acclaim through such things as "carte blanche" concerts devoted to his music in important cultural capitals around the world, will receive overdue recognition on our series. As well, Esprit is pleased to participate in a festival focusing on the music of Russian composer Sophia Gubaidulina being mounted by Esprit, New Music Concerts, Soundstreams Canada and the Toronto Symphony. Another important collaboration is the co-commissioning of a new piece

esprit profile

Esprit Orchestra is Canada's only full-sized orchestra devoted exclusively to performing, promoting and commissioning contemporary music. Each year the orchestra presents a concert series of exceptional Canadian and international works. Founded by Music Director and celebrated Conductor Alex Pauk, Esprit is



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from Michael Colgrass by the Boston New Music Project, The Richmond (Virginia) Symphony and Esprit. We will give the first performance of this exciting work in May featuring Joanne Kong as soloist.

As always, we have engaged many superb soloists with great stature as foremost specialists in today's newest music. Our attention to the music of rising Canadian stars such as Petar Klanac is of great importance to Esprit.

Canadian music, set in an international context, remains at the core of Esprit's programming. Our *Toward a Living Art* Education Programme is developing new ventures to create greater awareness of our musical heritage even as it is being created. Through *Toward a Living Art* as well as a new Mentoring and Creative Leadership Programme, Esprit is planning to make the participation of young people an ever more important aspect of our annual **New Wave Composers Festival**. As we make preparations for the celebration of Esprit's 25th Anniversary in the 2007/2008 season, the operative word is regeneration. This season I invite you to join us for concerts exploring our musical riches from past and present and I hope you will join us in the exciting, exhilarating anticipation of our future musical endeavours.

in its 24th season. With innovative programming, Esprit aims to stimulate, enlighten and engage music lovers with a rare opportunity to explore the best contemporary orchestral music with exceptional performers. Esprit concerts are recorded for broadcast by CBC Radio Two's *Two New Hours*.

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education and outreach

Esprit's Education Programme, *Toward a Living Art*, brings the composers of the works together with high school music students as well as those from the general student population. The programs broaden the understanding of contemporary music for those that have some experience with it, and introduce new sounds to those who have little opportunity for such exposure.

Esprit's Outreach Programme is a community-based mentoring project in new music creation, performance, appreciation and leadership which embraces young people of varying social backgrounds and levels of artistic ability and experience. It aims to provide access and hands-on experience to improve artistic skills and appreciation of our contemporary cultural environment.

For more information on Esprit education and outreach activities visit www.espritorchestra.com or call 416-815-7887.

hot new wave composers festival

May 10 – 13, 2007

One of the most thrilling aspects of Esprit's growth in recent years has been the evolution of the **New Wave Festival** into an ever-growing annual event – a place where audiences can meet composers face to face at concerts, forums and social events in alternative spaces as well as at the Jane Mallett Theatre. Programming includes four concerts curated and conducted by Brian Current, Scott Good, Chris Paul Harman and Alex Pauk. The festival intersects with Esprit's *Toward a Living Art* Education Programme.

Check Esprit's website for details in November.
www.espritorchestra.com

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concert highlights

sanctuary • October 22.06 Current and Frehner, two of the most outstanding Canadian composers to have emerged in the past several years, have important international careers as well as highly valued associations with Esprit. *Sanctuary* and *Kazabazua* create contrasts of mood and intent. Benjamin's *Three Inventions* range in character from serene and luminous to fast and loud, with unexpected tempo juxtapositions – a perfect vehicle to display Esprit's virtuosity. Ligeti's *Melodien* opens like a cloud of sound, suddenly released and flying upwards with varied kinds of melodies evolving and transforming as if blowing on currents of air.

sophia plus • November 26.06 The presence of guest composer Sophia Gubaidulina makes Esprit's concert a very special event – one associated to an artist of the highest stature on the world stage. Her composition *Seven Words* refers directly to two works entitled *The Seven Last Words of Our Savior on the Cross*. Joseph Haydn's set of seven orchestral movements. The spatial aspect of Current's *Concertino* is integral to the charm of this piece which was specially composed for the virtuosity of Robert Aitken. Also having a work specially composed for her, Louise Bessette gives the second performance of Arcuri's *Concerto* following its premiere with I Musici de Montréal several weeks earlier.

la joie • February 11.07 This concert places a focus on Esprit's principal players. With the performance of *Chamber Concerto*, Esprit introduces the music of English composer Philip Cashian to Toronto. His music is even more rarely heard in North America than that of his highly regarded countryman George Benjamin. Patricia Green makes a long-anticipated appearance in Benjamin's *Upon Silence* in which he sets *Long-legged Fly*, a late poem of Yeats. Also by way of introduction, the concert presents the music of Klanac in advance of the World Premiere of his Esprit-commissioned work in May. By way of a reprise, we perform a work of Schwanter which had a magical effect on audiences in Esprit's early years.

red hot new wave finale • May 13.07 Two extraordinary soloists provide the electricity for three of this concert's compositions. American guest artist Joanne Kong plays both piano and harpsichord in the World Premiere of a "double concerto" composed for her by Michael Colgrass, a Pulitzer Prize winning composer. Canada's own Shauna Rolston is featured in works of distinctly different moods. From the Ligeti *Concerto*, respecting the tonal, symphonic ideal of music that moves steadily and powerfully from beginning to end (with the cello as the most active member of an orchestra of soloists), to the irreverent, whacky *Grandma's Sore Back* of B.C.'s Schmidt, based on macabre German childrens' poems. Fulfilling Esprit's raison d'être from the beginning, this concert highlights the brand new, Esprit-commissioned *Canons* by rising star Petar Klanac.

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St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts Jane Mallett Theatre collects ticket fees on behalf of Esprit Orchestra but cannot be responsible for refunds should performances be cancelled. Each ticket includes a \$2.65 Capital Improvement Fund surcharge. All programmes are subject to change without notice. Should an artist be unable to appear, Esprit Orchestra reserves the right to make arrangements for substitute performers.

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